

In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

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1. (Unchanged) Reinforcement for cementitious boards comprising an open mesh of high modulus of elasticity fiber strands continuously covered by alkali-resistant thermoplastic material.

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2. (Unchanged) The reinforcement of claim 1 wherein said mesh is heated after formation thereof to fuse said thermoplastic material at areas where said strands intersect.

3. (Unchanged) The reinforcement of claim 1 wherein said mesh is heated after formation thereof to provide a continuous coating of said thermoplastic material on said strands.

4. (Unchanged) The reinforcement of claim 1 wherein said thermoplastic material is selected from the group consisting of olefins, ethylene propylene rubber, thermoplastic polyolefin rubber, polyvinylidene chloride, ethylene-propylene diene monomer and copolymers of polybutylene and propylene.

5. (Unchanged) The reinforcement of claim 1 wherein said mesh has a strand count of about 2 to about 18 strands per inch in each direction.

6. (Unchanged) The reinforcement of claim 1 wherein said strands comprise bundled glass fibers having a linear density of about 33 to about 300 tex.

7. (Unchanged) The reinforcement of claim 1 wherein said mesh is no greater than about 0.020 inch in thickness.

8. (Unchanged) The reinforcement of claim 3 wherein said thermoplastic material is fibrous.

9. (Unchanged) The reinforcement of claim 8 wherein said fibrous thermoplastic material is friction spun on said strands.

10. (Unchanged) The reinforcement of claim 2 wherein said thermoplastic material is co-extruded with said strands to provide a continuous coating about said strands.

11. (Amended) A substantially planar cementitious board having first and second opposed faces, said cementitious board comprising:
cementitious matrix material; and
reinforcement embedded within said cementitious matrix material, said reinforcement comprising an open mesh of high modulus of elasticity fiber strands continuously covered by alkali-resistant thermoplastic material.

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13. The cementitious board of claim 12 wherein said board is about 1/4 to about 5/8 inch in thickness.

Please cancel claims 14-35, without prejudice.

